U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration

Fatalgrams and Fatal Reports

"Safety and Health are Values"

Fatality #21 - October 4, 2006 Falling Material - Minnesota - Sand & Gravel Cemstone Products Company - Henderson Pit

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY - On October 4, 2006, a 59-year old contractor dragline operator, with 12 years experience, was fatally injured at a sand and gravel operation. The victim and other employees were preparing to repair the transmission on a dragline. While the cab was being removed, it tipped and pinned him between the cab and the handrail on the walkway.



Best Practices

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task to identify all potential hazards before performing maintenance work. Practice safe work habits during the entire task.
- Consult and follow the manufacturer's recommended safe work procedures for the maintenance task.
- Train miners in safe work procedures before beginning repairs.
- Securely block equipment against all hazardous motion at all times while performing maintenance work.

This is the 21st fatality reported in calendar year 2006 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2005, there were 27 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 3rd Falling Material fatality in 2006. There were 3 Falling Material fatalities in the same period in 2005.

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.